ISSN 0712-7774

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

HOVERING BELOW

71 FEB
2.00 CANADA
1.70 IN U.S.

THE • FRAY

Note from the President

Do you know that there is absolutely nothing to say in this little introductory space? Do you? Deni used to complain endlessly that there was nothing to say this issue. Well, she was right. There's nothing to say about Cerebus. It speaks for itself. At least I hope it does.

Well, maybe there are a couple of things to talk about. I mean I could always talk about how Deni's resignation from Aardvark Vanaheim came about. The terms of the agreement. What she said. What I said. What the lawyer said. What the accountant said. What her lawyer said. What my lawyer said.

But that's none of your business, so you can all lean back in your seats again.

The only other thing that seems important enough to delay your reading of this issue is the matter of Cerebus going to Marvel.

I don't know where the hell that one got started, but, I mean, get real, people. Cerebus has always made enough money to keep itself (as well as himself) going. I'll be cutting the page count of the book back to twenty-four pages. Cerebus Jam is **already** at a circulation of 30,000 and the first issue hasn't come out yet. Initial reaction from the fan club members to the limited print series The First Fifth has been more than a little overwhelming. With complete autonomy over the company, I have initiated a number of licensing deals which will be bearing substantial fruit in the not-too-distant future. Gerhard is in the studio painting this issue's cover while nearby his faithful girl-friend Rose does her homework. Tarim is in his heaven and all is right with Estarcion.

So relax folks, I've still got two hundred and twenty-nine issues to do. Stick around.

Personal Appearances

March 16-17, 1985
Creation Con
Roosevelt Hotel
45th and Madison, New York

April 5-7, 1985
Victoria International Cartoon Festival
Benefit for Big Brothers and Sisters
Empress Hotel,
Victoria, British Columbia

April 20, 1985
Alterna-Con '85
Nova Plaza Hotel
Charlotte, N.C.

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 71 FEB. 1985

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Karen McKiel

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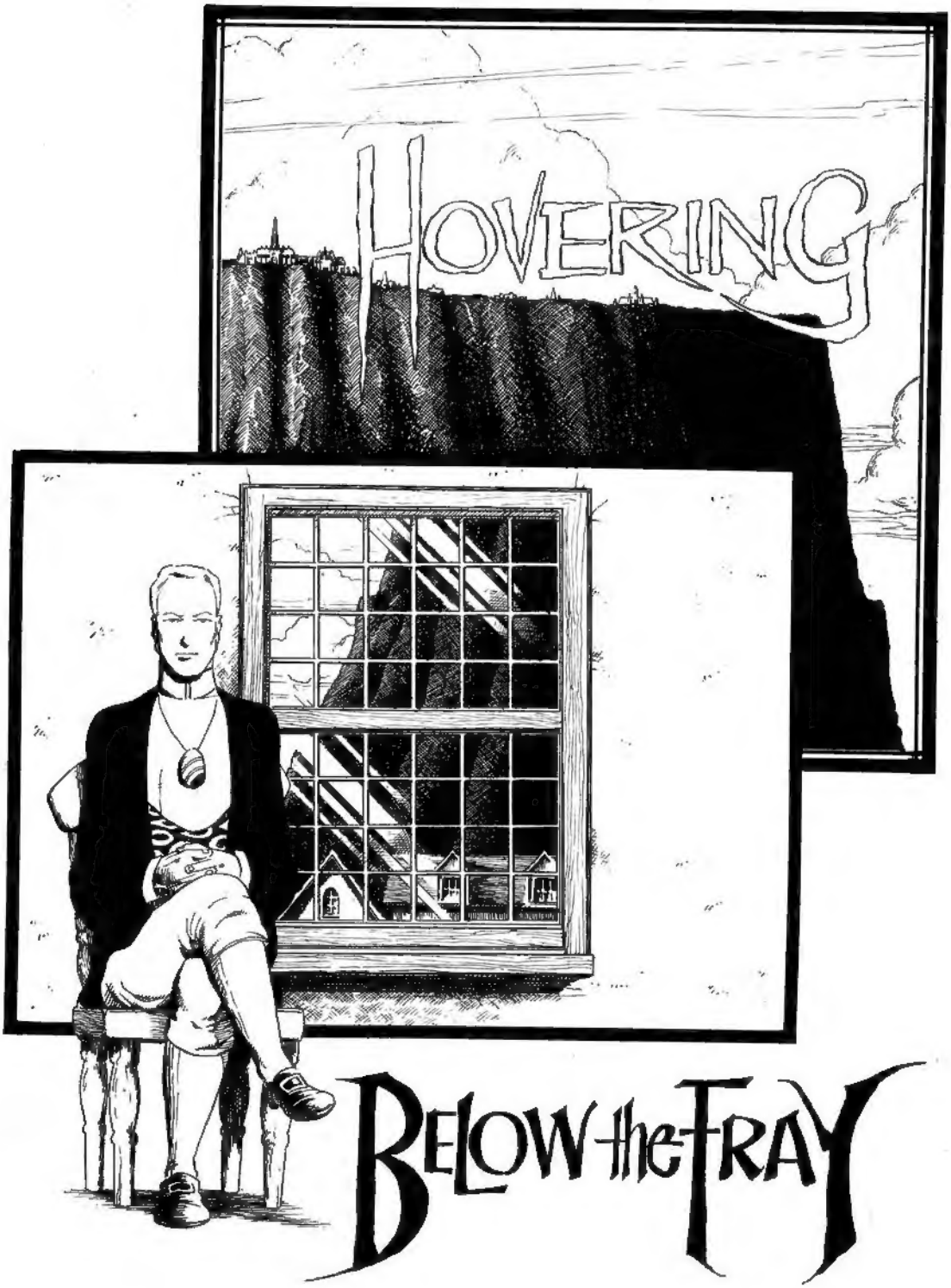
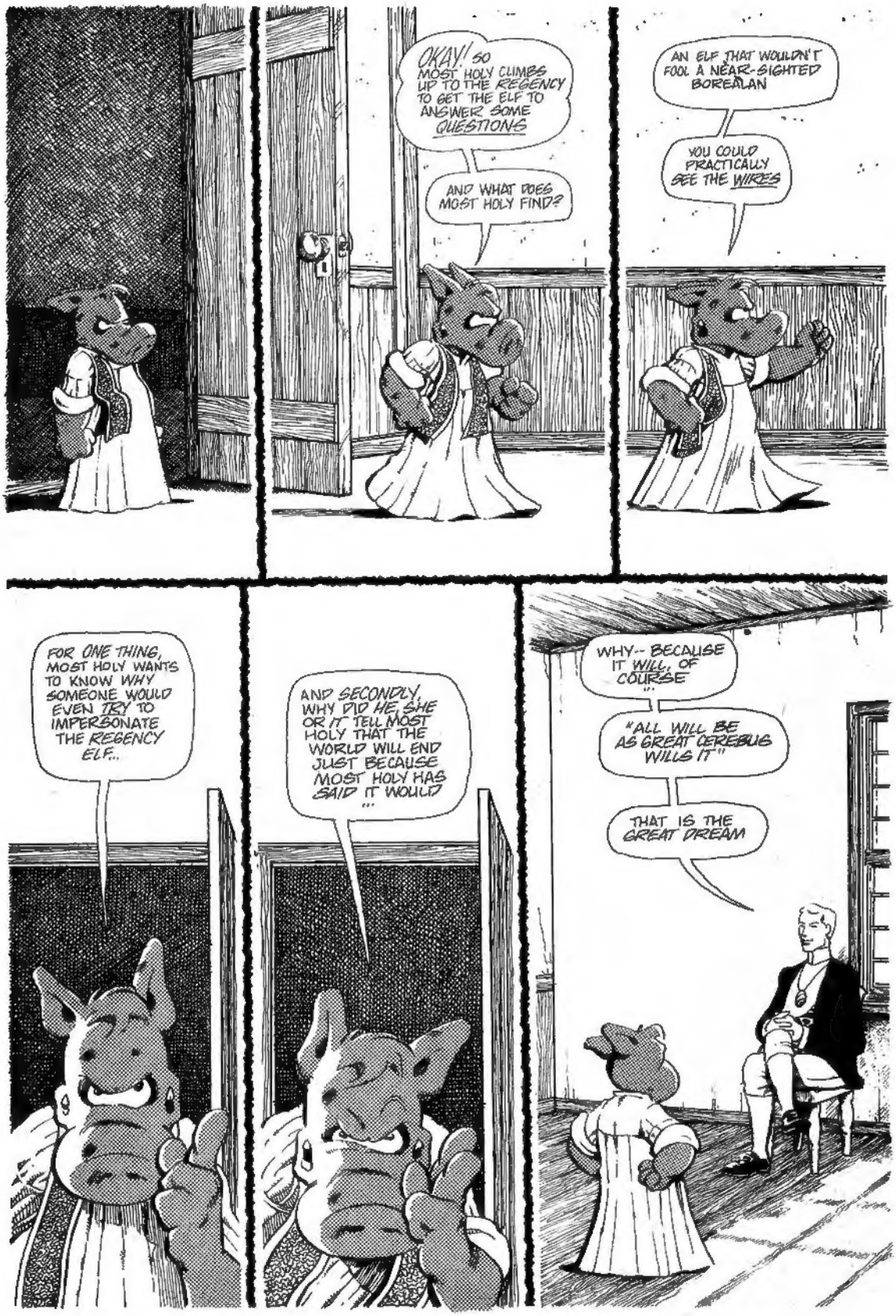
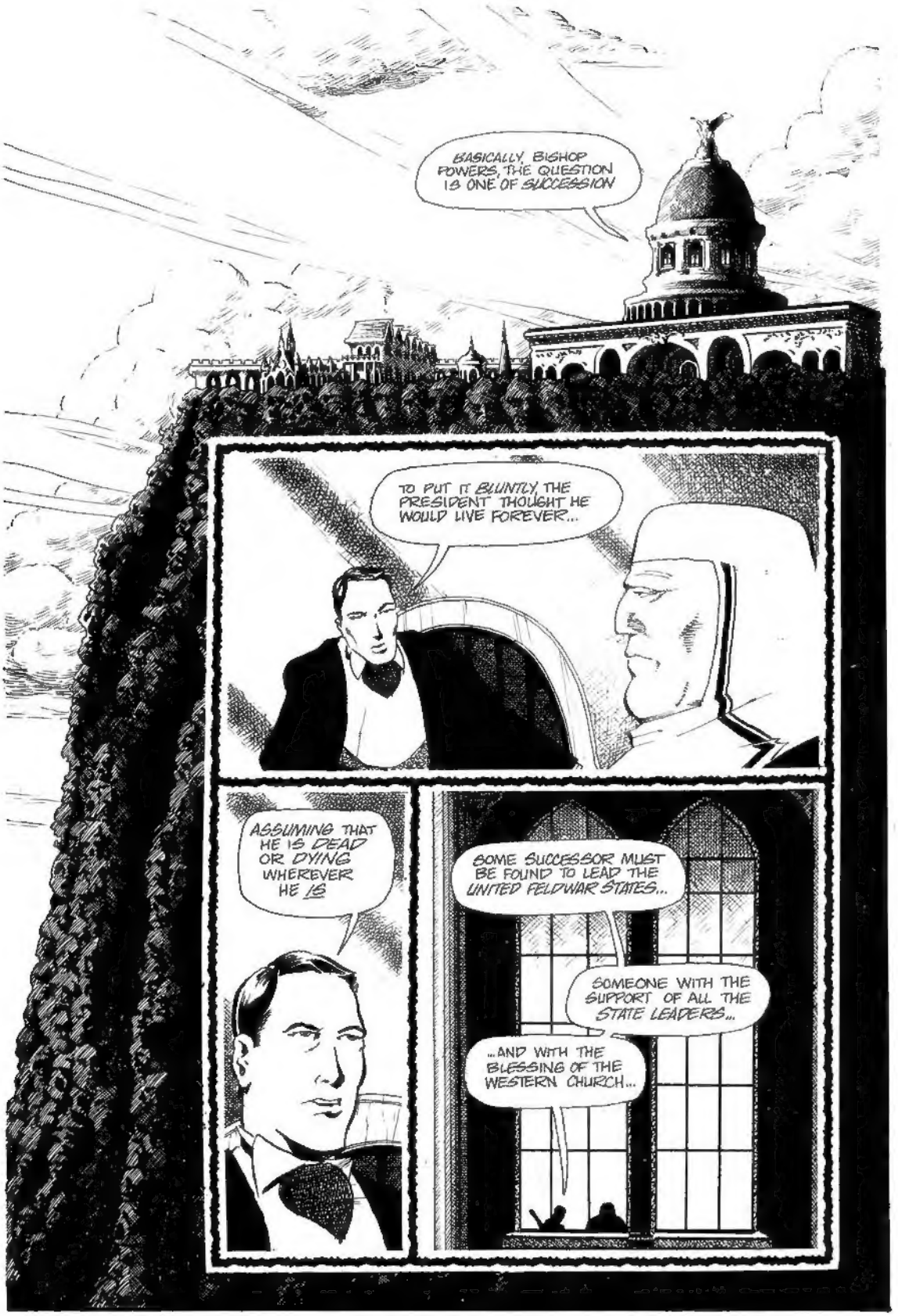
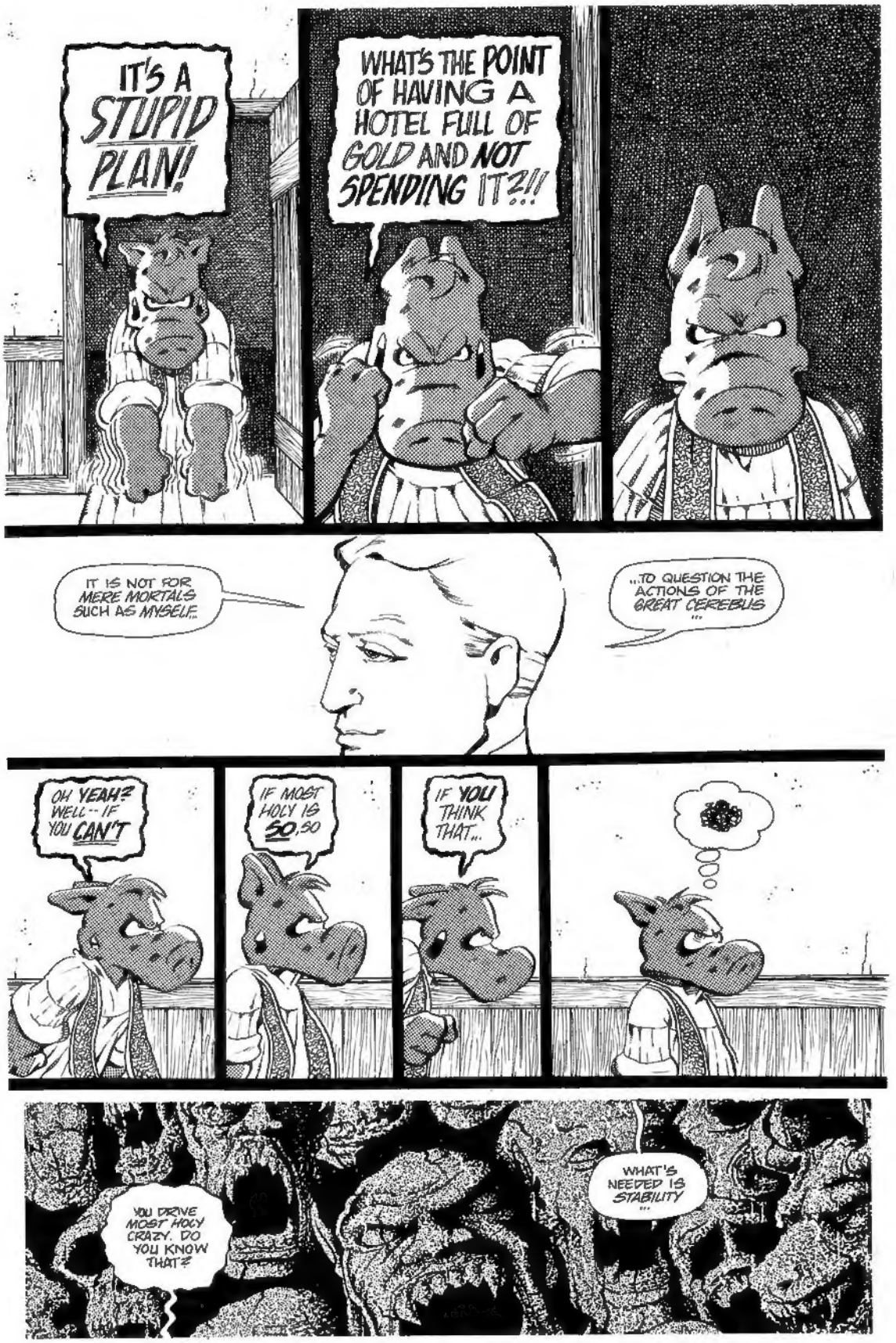

HOVERING
BELOW the FRAY


OKAY! SO MOST HOLY CLIMBS UP TO THE REGENCY TO GET THE ELF TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS
AND WHAT DOES MOST HOLY FIND?
AN ELF THAT WOULDN'T FOOL A NEAR-SIGHTED BOREALAN
YOU COULD PRACTICALLY SEE THE WIRES
FOR ONE THING, MOST HOLY WANTS TO KNOW WHY SOMEONE WOULD EVEN TRY TO IMPERSONATE THE REGENCY ELF...
AND SECONDLY, WHY DID HE, SHE OR IT TELL MOST HOLY THAT THE WORLD WILL END JUST BECAUSE MOST HOLY HAS SAID IT WOULD ...
WHY-- BECAUSE IT WILL, OF COURSE ...
"ALL WILL BE AS GREAT CEREBUS WILLS IT"
THAT IS THE GREAT DREAM


BASICALLY, BISHOP POWERS, THE QUESTION IS ONE OF SUCCESSION
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, THE PRESIDENT THOUGHT HE WOULD LIVE FOREVER...
ASSUMING THAT HE IS DEAD OR DYING WHEREVER HE IS
SOME SUCCESSOR MUST BE FOUND TO LEAD THE UNITED FELDWAR STATES...
SOMEONE WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE STATE LEADERS...
...AND WITH THE BLESSING OF THE WESTERN CHURCH...

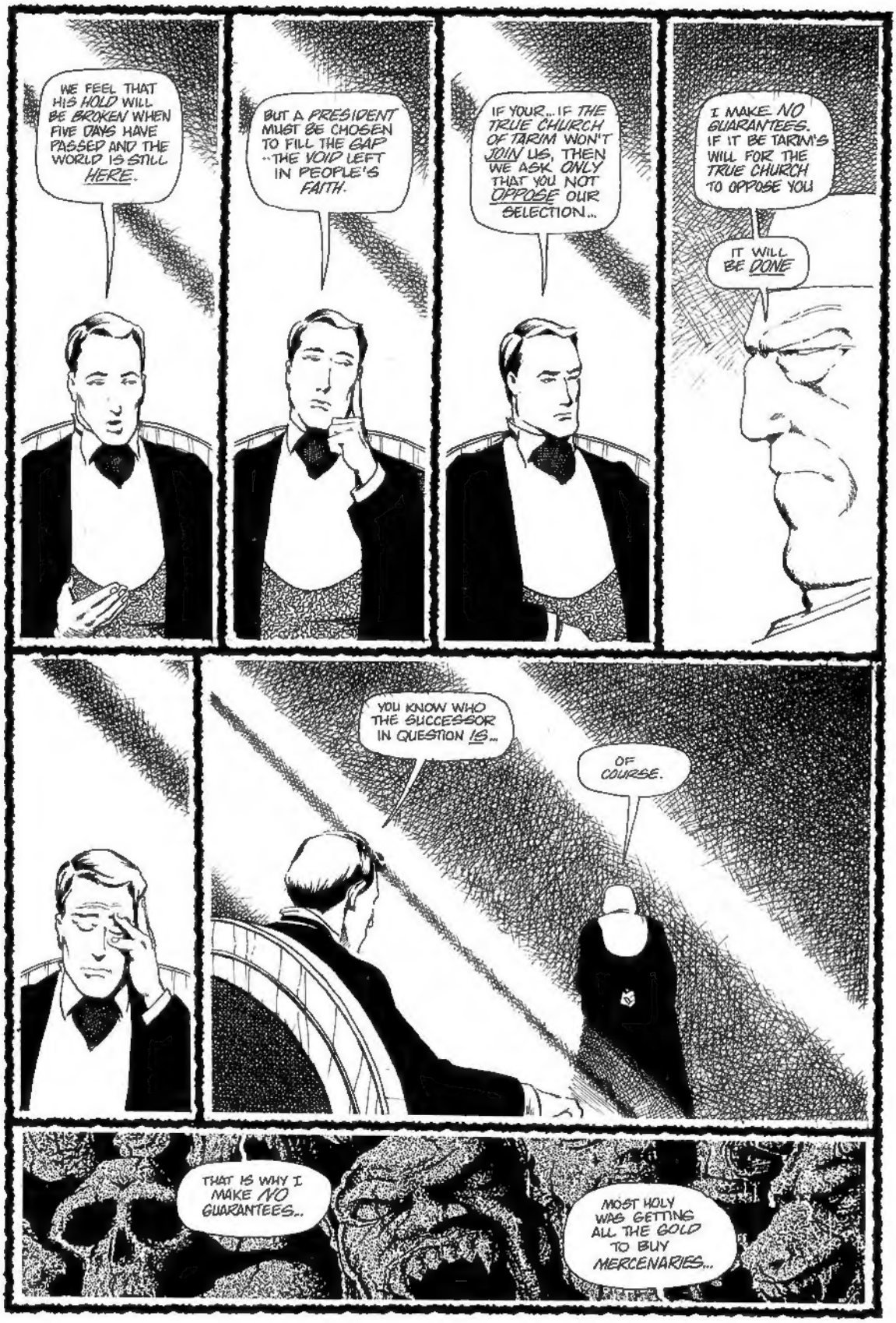
AND WHAT IF THE LION OF SERREA SIMPLY ANNOUNCES THAT HE...
IS THE NEW PRESIDENT?
FROM A BUSINESS STANDPOINT OR A POLITICAL STANDPOINT
I THINK YOU COULD GET FULL APPROVAL ...
BUT THE PEOPLE, UNFORTUNATELY BELIEVE IN CEREBUS
YOU WANT ME TO MAKE HIM PRESIDENT? IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN....
NO NO NO
BISHOP POWERS. PLEASE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING AT ALL.
WHAT KIND OF A "GREAT DREAM" IS THAT?

IF THE WORLD IS DESTROYED, EVERYONE WILL BE DEAD...
THERE WON'T BE ANY TAVERNS EVEN...
THAT IS TRUE.
BUT SINCE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRING IT ABOUT
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DECIDE IF IT IS NECESSARY.
HOW CAN DESTROYING THE WORLD BE NECESSARY? ALL MOST HOLY WANTS TO DO IS SCARE PEOPLE INTO GIVING HIM GOLD...
AMAZING! WONDERFUL! WE ARE ALL, OF COURSE, WAITING TO SEE WHAT YOU DO WITH THE GOLD ...
DO WITH IT? MOST HOLY ISN'T GOING TO DO ANYTHING WITH IT. MOST HOLY IS GOING TO KEEP IT... IT'S MOST HOLY'S GOLD
A WONDERFUL PLAN. A MIRACULOUS PLAN


IT'S A STUPID PLAN!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING A HOTEL FULL OF GOLD AND NOT SPENDING IT?!!
IT IS NOT FOR MERE MORTALS SUCH AS MYSELF...
...TO QUESTION THE ACTIONS OF THE GREAT CEREBUS ...
OH YEAH? WELL-- IF YOU CAN'T
IF MOST HOLY IS $0, SO
IF YOU THINK THAT...
YOU DRIVE MOST HOLY CRAZY. DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WHAT'S NEEDED IS STABILITY ...

THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON THE STATE LEADERS THE MERCHANTS AND THE BANKERS WILL UNITE BEHIND
THEY SEE A COMMON FOE IN CEREBUS AND FRANKLY...
I WOULD SAY YOUR CHURCH COULDN'T HELP BUT...

IT IS NOT MY CHURCH, FOOL! IT IS THE ONE TRUE CHURCH OF TARIM!!
OF COURSE OF COURSE --I WAS SPEAKING OF...
YOU WERE SPEAKING AS AN IDIOT WOULD...
THAT... THAT... FREAK CLINGING TO THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN IS LESS THAN AN ANT TO THE TRUE TARIM...
AND TARIM WILL DESTROY HIM AS SURELY AS THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST
NO MATTER WHO YOUR RIDICULOUS PRESIDENT IS!

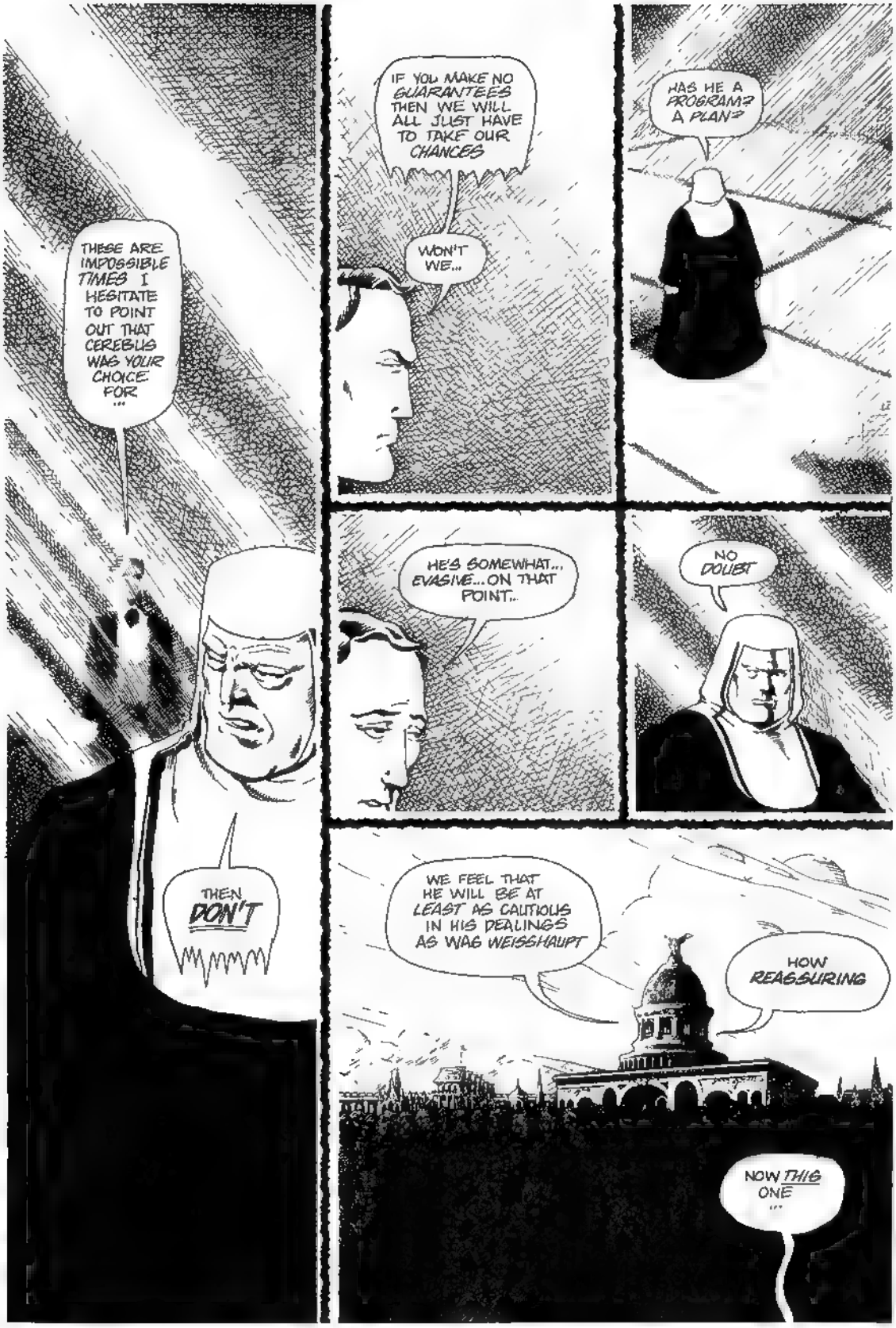

WE FEEL THAT HIS HOLD WILL BE BROKEN WHEN FIVE DAYS HAVE PASSED AND THE WORLD IS STILL HERE.
BUT A PRESIDENT MUST BE CHOSEN TO FILL THE GAP --THE VOID LEFT IN PEOPLE'S FAITH.
IF YOUR... IF THE TRUE CHURCH OF TARIM WON'T JOIN US, THEN WE ASK ONLY THAT YOU NOT OPPOSE OUR SELECTION...
I MAKE NO GUARANTEES. IF IT BE TARIM'S WILL FOR THE TRUE CHURCH TO OPPOSE YOU
IT WILL BE DONE
YOU KNOW WHO THE SUCCESSOR IN QUESTION IS...
OF COURSE.
THAT IS WHY I MAKE NO GUARANTEES..
MOST HOLY WAS GETTING ALL THE GOLD TO BUY MERCENARIES...

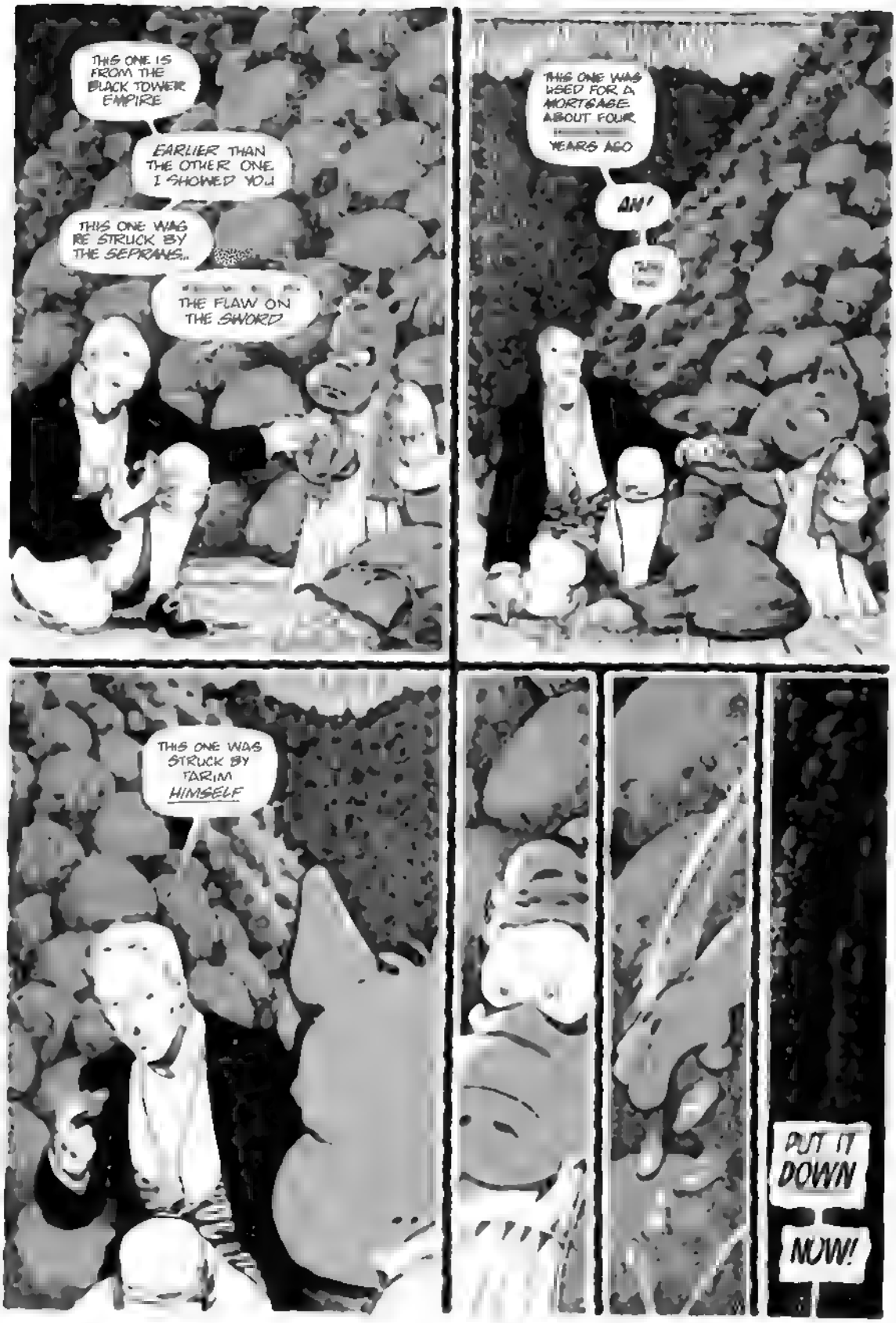
OKAY? BUT THE MORE MOST HOLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT..
THE MORE HE REALISED THAT IF HE SENT HIS MERCENARIES OUT TO CONQUER EVERYTHING ...
THEY'D JUST GET BEATEN LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO AND THEN MOST HOLY WOULDN'T HAVE ANY GOLD "
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH MERCENARIES, THEY NEVER CONQUER EVERYTHING "
BUT, THE GREAT CEREBUS HAS NO NEED TO SPEND HIS GOLD...
THE WORD OF THE GREAT CEREBUS IS LAW.
YOU HAVE BUT TO TELL YOUR FOLLOWERS THAT YOU DREAM OF CONQUEST
THEY WILL DO THE REST "

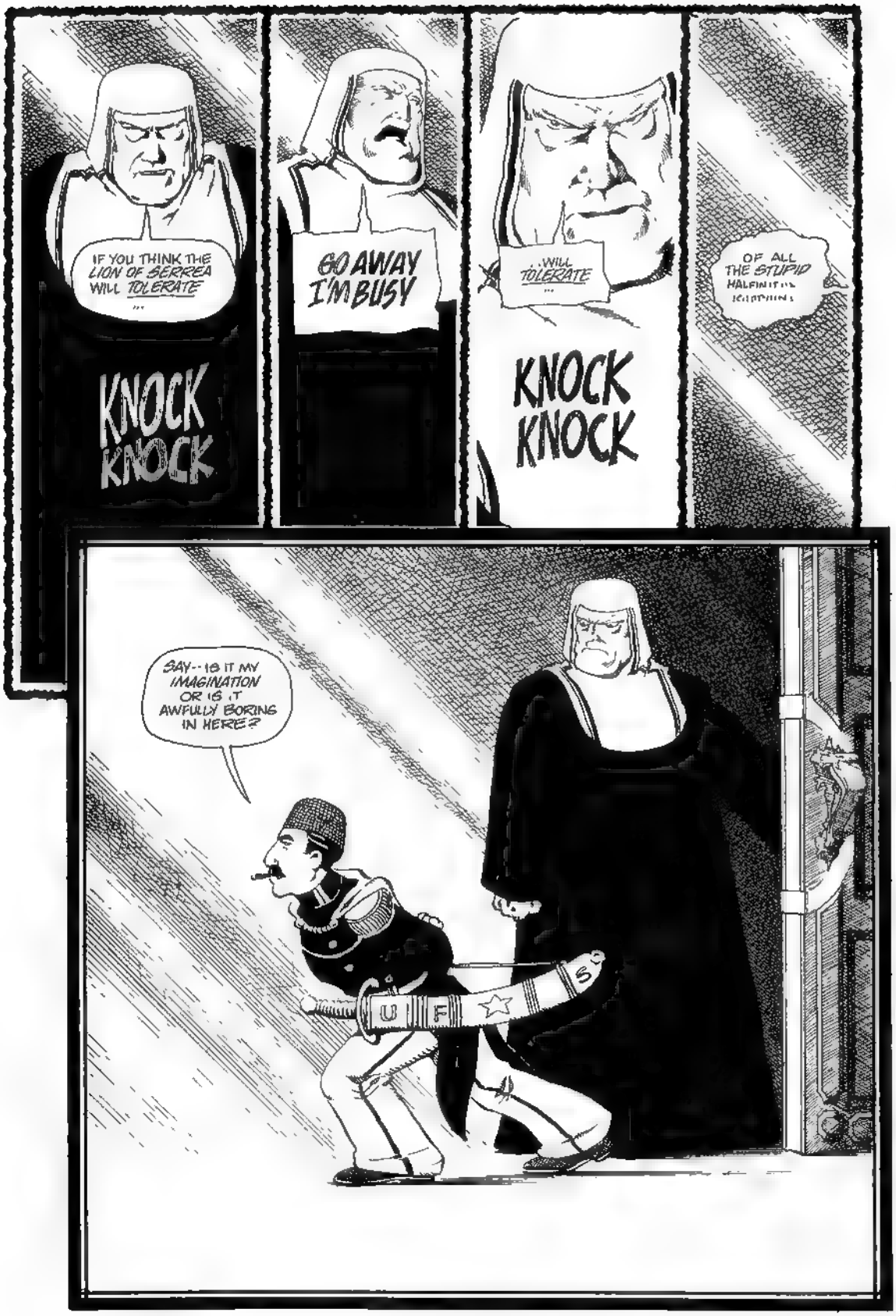
FOLLOWERS?
YOU MEAN ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE?
OF COURSE
THEY HAVEN'T GOT ANY SWORDS, --CROSSBOWS, -- SHIELDS!!
MOST OF THEM DON'T EVEN HAVE TEETH FOR TARIM'S SAKE
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?
GUM EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH?
IF THEY ARE TRUE FOLLOWERS OF THE GREAT CEREBUS ...
THEY WILL NEED ONLY THEIR FAITH TO BE VICTORIOUS...
IF THEY WERE TRUE FOLLOWERS, MOST HOLY WOULD HAVE ALL THEIR GOLD BY NOW.
HE'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL ...

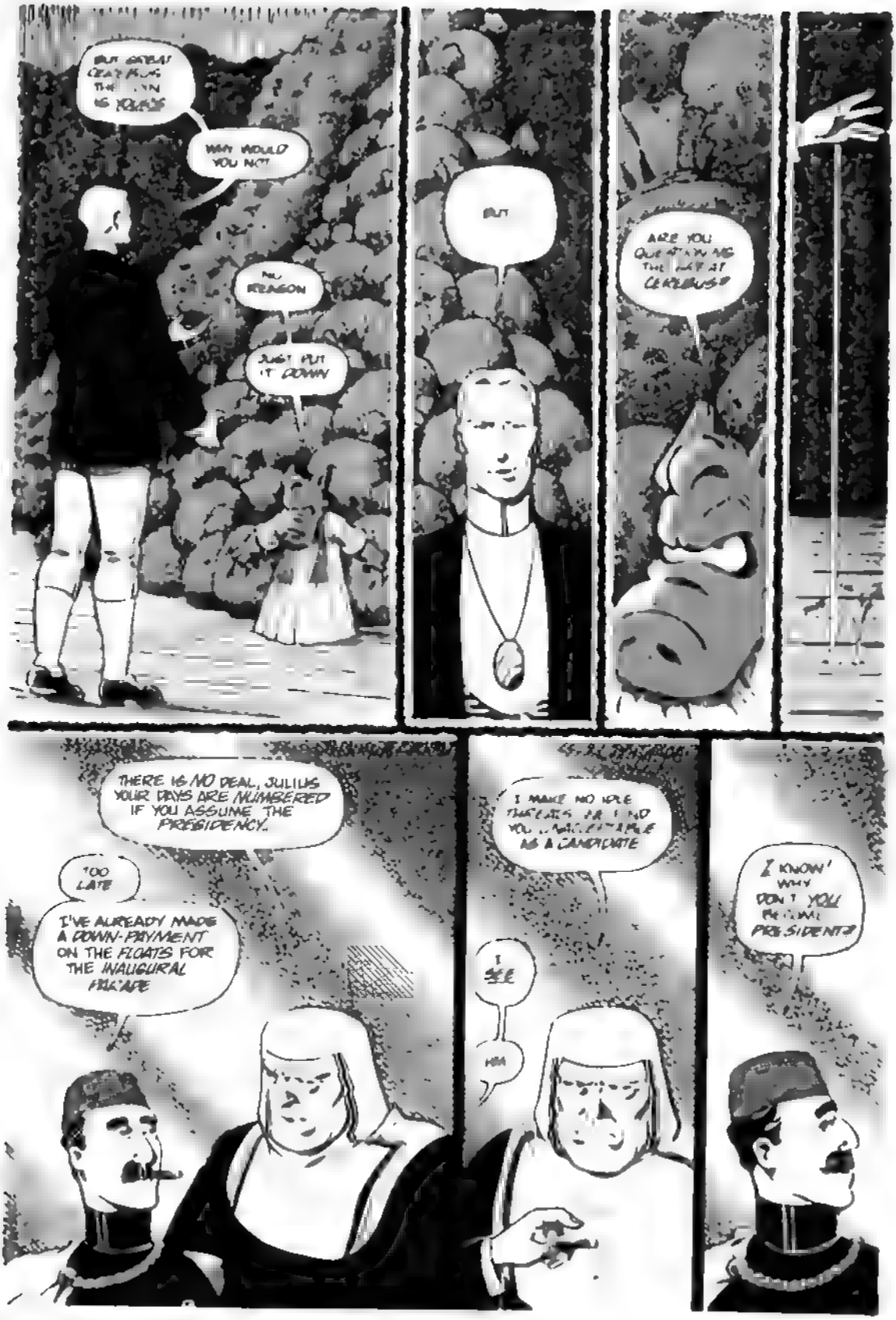
HE CAME CLOSE TO DESTROYING EVERY ECONOMY IN ESTARCION WITH HIS DAMNABLE PAPER CURRENCY
AND CEREBUS IS TRYING TO REVIVE GOLD AS THE BASIS FOR THOSE ECONOMIES IN THE FELDWAR VALLEY.
UNLESS YOU PERMIT US TO THROW SOMETHING IN HIS PATH, YOUR...THE TRUE CHURCH IS GOING TO BE STALEMATED...
HE WILL NEVER HAVE AS MUCH GOLD AS THE LION OF SERREA
YOU HAVE THE SAME INSIDE REPORTS THAT WE HAVE...
IF ALL OF THOSE BAGS ARE FULL...
HE MIGHT HAVE MORE
BUT THE GOLD THAT YOU HAVE, GREAT CEREBUS, IS MIRACULOUS ...

MIRACULOUS?
GOLD ISN'T MIRACULOUS. GOLD IS GOLD ...
TO THE GREAT CEREBUS THE MIRACULOUS SEEMS COMMONPLACE...
AND THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE...
BUT TO A HUMBLE FOLLOWER SUCH AS MYSELF, THE GOLD IS A SHINING TESTIMONY THAT THE GREAT CEREBUS HAS RETURNED.
MOST OF THE COINS ARE MANY CENTURIES OLD, PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...
TRIBUTE OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY KIND...
WHEN YOU TOLD YOUR FOLLOWERS TO BRING YOU COINS...
THEY KNEW THE TIME WAS AT HAND ...
IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU'RE KIDDING ...

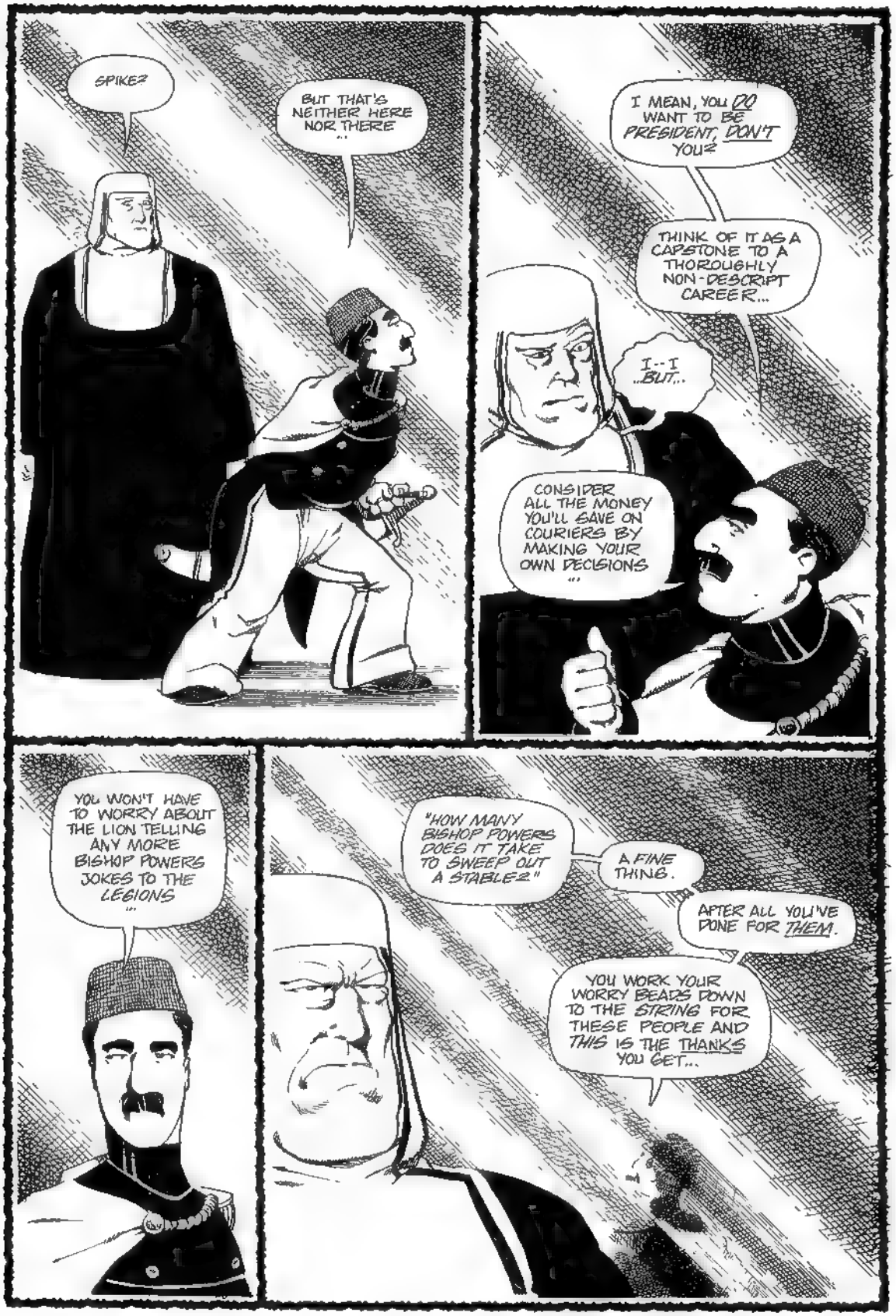

THESE ARE IMPOSSIBLE TIMES I HESITATE TO POINT OUT THAT CEREBUS WAS YOUR CHOICE FOR ...
THEN DON'T
IF YOU MAKE NO GUARANTEES THEN WE WILL ALL JUST HAVE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES
WON'T WE...
HAS HE A PROGRAM? A PLAN?
HE'S SOMEWHAT... EVASIVE... ON THAT POINT...
NO DOUBT
WE FEEL THAT HE WILL BE AT LEAST AS CAUTIOUS IN HIS DEALINGS AS WAG WEISSHAUPT
HOW REASSURING
NOW THIS ONE ...


THIS ONE IS FROM THE BLACK TOWER EMPIRE
EARLIER THAN THE OTHER ONE I SHOWED YOU
THIS ONE WAS RE STRUCK BY THE SEPRANES...
THE FLAW ON THE SWORD
THIS ONE WAS USED FOR A MORTGAGE ABOUT FOUR
YEARS AGO
AW!
THIS ONE WAS STRUCK BY FARIM HIMSELF
PUT IT DOWN
NOW!

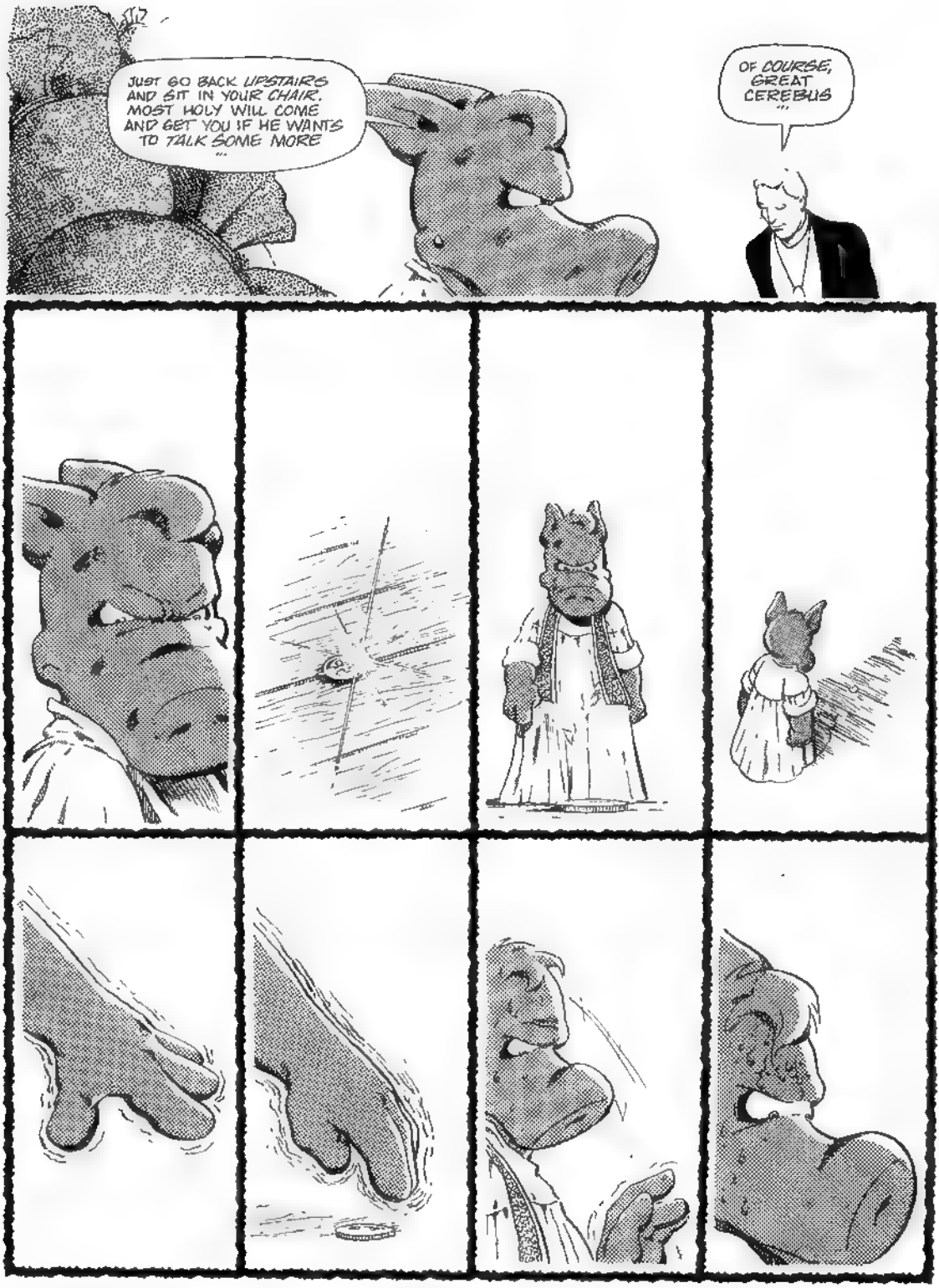

IF YOU THINK THE LION OF SERREA WILL TOLERATE ...
KNOCK KNOCK
GO AWAY I'M BUSY
...WILL TOLERATE ...
KNOCK KNOCK
OF ALL THE STUPID
SAY--IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR IS IT AWFULLY BORING IN HERE?
U
F
S


BUT GREAT CEASAR, THE [illegible] IS YOURS
WHY WOULD YOU NOT?
NO REASON
JUST PUT IT DOWN
BUT
ARE YOU QUESTIONING THE WILL OF CAESAR?
THERE IS NO DEAL, JULIUS YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED IF YOU ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY.
TOO LATE
I'VE ALREADY MADE A DOWN-PAYMENT ON THE FLOATS FOR THE INAUGURAL PALACE
I MAKE NO VOLE [illegible] YOU [illegible] AS A CANDIDATE
I SEE
HMM
I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU RUN FOR PRESIDENT?

UHH
OF COURSE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE?
'POWERS' IS A MUCH BETTER NAME FOR A PRESIDENT THAN 'JULIUS' IS
'PRESIDENT POWERS.' JUST THINK OF ALL THE FUN YOU COULD HAVE PURGING THE BUREAUCRACY
YOU'D FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN
ASSUMING YOU EVER WERE A KID..
I AM..LOYAL TO THE LION OF SERREA
AND LOOK WHAT IT'S GOTTEN YOU! HE NEVER EVEN INVITED YOU TO THE TREATY PICNIC..
TREATY... PICNIC ..?
THE LAST TIME WE NEGOTIATED CONTROL OF THE RED MARCHES
HE SAID TO ME 'JULIUS--IF THAT POWERS GUY SHOWS UP I THINK WE SHOULD GRAB THE POTATO SALAD AND HIDE."
THE LION SAID.. THAT? ABOUT ME?
YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD WHAT HE SAID ABOUT YOUR DOG..


SPIKE?
BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE ...
I MEAN, YOU DO WANT TO BE PRESIDENT, DON'T YOU?
THINK OF IT AS A CAPSTONE TO A THOROUGHLY NON-DESCRIPT CAREER...
I--I ..BUT...
CONSIDER ALL THE MONEY YOU'LL SAVE ON COURIERS BY MAKING YOUR OWN DECISIONS ...
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE LION TELLING ANY MORE BISHOP POWERS JOKES TO THE LEGIONS ...
"HOW MANY BISHOP POWERS DOES IT TAKE TO SWEEP OUT A STABLE?"
A FINE THING.
AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR THEM.
YOU WORK YOUR WORRY BEADS DOWN TO THE STRING FOR THESE PEOPLE AND THIS IS THE THANKS YOU GET...

SPIKE'S A GOOD DOG
I ASK YOU
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT SOMEONE WHO HAS SET HEARTS A FLUTTER ALL ACROSS THE UNITED FEDOWAR STATES?
ME?
IF I HAD A HALF BIT FOR EVERY SOCIETY GIRL WHO'S ASKED ME WHY YOU DON'T SHOW UP AT ANY OF THE CHURCH SOCIALS.
I COULD PROBABLY BUY SOME OF THE LESS SHABBY PARTS OF TOGITH
I HAD NO-
-IDEA
AH, IF I ONLY HAD MY YOUTH AGAIN DANCING TIL DAWN
CHUG A LUGGING FRUIT PUNCH
LEADING SING-ALONG'S


JUST GO BACK UPSTAIRS AND SIT IN YOUR CHAIR. MOST HOLY WILL COME AND GET YOU IF HE WANTS TO TALK SOME MORE
OF COURSE, GREAT CEREBUS

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Signature

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A UNIQUE STORY

DEMLINS
THERE IT IS AGAIN RONNIE.
I'M SURE I HEARD IT THIS TIME.
WILL YOU PLEASE CHECK ON IT?
DAGNABIT! FIRST GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP IN WEEKS AND SHE'S HEARING THINGS...
...
THOSE PESKY RODENTS ARE BACK.
I THOUGHT THE EXTERMINATOR GOT RID OF 'EM ALL. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK INTO CUTTING THEIR BUDGET TOMORROW
AH HA!! THE FIRST LADY'S LAUNDRY CHUTE!
CREAK CREAK CREAK
ONLY ONE PLACE THOSE CRITTERS CAN GO NOW. THE LAUNDRY ROOM.
:GIGGLE: THIS IS A CINCH. CATCHING RATS IS A BREEZE
HO! THERE HE IS!
BIG SUCKER TOO
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD SMACK..
RIGHT!
NOW!
EEEEEAH!

© 1985 JIM BRICKER

AAA!
NANCY!! WAKE UP! CALL SECURITY! WE'RE...
UNDER ATTACK
Hi-ya Ron-o GUESS WHO WE ARE!!
Yaa-eehaha!
OOOO... LOOK A PRESEEDENT
Can't guess, hun?
I,UM...
WELL I'LL GIVE YOU A LIL' HINT ME AND MY BUDDIES ARE MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLE DONKEYS..
We're cute, cuddly, playful, and sometimes dangerous. We're the symbol of stupidity... the plaything of the child... the essence of a nightmare. But worst of all...
... we're democrats.
GAAA!!
GET OUT YOU MONSTERS!!
ZING!
ZIP!
ZIP!
RONNIE! WHAT CAN WE DO?
I'M GONNA GO OUT THERE AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MESS!
I'LL BE DAMNED IF A BUNCH OF ASSES ARE GONNA MAKE A DONKEY OUT OF ME!!
GRECIAN FORMULA 400

NOT IN MY... HOUSE.
CIVIL RIGHTS!
LESS MILITARY SPENDING!
SOCIAL PROGRAMS!
FEED THE POOR.
NO BIG BUSINESS
EAT THE RICH!
LEARN HOW TO ACT!
MAKE LOVE NOT WAR
BRING BACK BONZO
BELCH!
KLIK
NANCY! THE LITTLE BUGGERS ARE EVERYWHERE!!
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING GO TO SLEEP DEAR.
HELP ME!! THEY'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE!!
THEY'RE GONNA... ..BUST.. ..DOWN..
KRWAM!
HEY WAIT! I DON'T DESERVE THIS.
YOU BET YOU DO, PUNK
LOOK FELLAS, LET'S TALK MONEY. I GOT...
STOW IT!!
SLURP!
WE'RE TAKING YOU TO OUR MASTERS! THEY'LL DEAL WITH YOU!
AAAIIIEEE!!!
TALLY HO! THERE THEY ARE!

NO!
YOU MAY HAVE WAXED US IN NOVEMBER, RONZO, BUT NOW IT'S OUR TURN!
TIME TO GO TO THAT BIG ELEPHANT GRAVE-YARD IN THE SKY!
NOT FRITZ AND GERRY!! ANYONE BUT THEM!

poof!

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LETTERING & KIBITZING by CHUCK BECKUM • DEC. 84 - JAN. 85

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
WE'RE SORRY FOR
THE DELAY...

CEREBUS Jam

(over)

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave,

When I saw you in Houston and heard you mention the split of A-V from Cerebus, I thought you were joking. While I wish A-V the best of luck in their separate endeavors, I have a vague theory that every company needs at least one really strong seller to make it over the long haul — and with both Cerebus and Journey off the A-V list, I'm a bit skeptical of A-V's staying power (Some pundits theorize that Comico would be dead if not for the Elementals.)

Now for a bit of analytical bushwah

It occurs to me that if one wanted to play the game of matching comics-creators to literary likenesses, you, Dave, would match well in some respects not to Swift or Voltaire (to whom I believe you've been compared once or twice) but to George Bernard Shaw. I'm not talking derivation here, just interesting similarity of outlook. Shaw is also particularly fascinated with the ways in which politics, economics, and romantic entanglements (!) become so inextricably mingled that sometimes it's hard to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. (The affair with the Countess seems to be the best example of this, though Astoria's involvement has similar overtones, Astoria being a more complex case because we don't know all her motivations. Only the Wolveroach knows -- and you know when we can expect to see him again.) In Shaw's world, like your own, the finer qualities associated with "romance" (not merely love-romance, but all the standard heroic passions) are present but in an elusive, unpredictable form. As other correspondents have noted, it's frequently hard to see anything in Cerebus' world that doesn't promote cynicism as a primary approach to life.

Which brings us to the "miracles". For a series partly created of spoof sword-and-sorcery, magic is conspicuously absent from the Cerebus world. (I suppose the lines spoken by the "merchant" in the first Cockroach tale, forgive me if I don't dig out the exact wordage -- supply the rationale that magic is on a downswing in Estarcion.) Now, unless the "miracles" accumulating around "Most Holy" are some sort of games conducted by the effervescent Elf, something outside Cerebus' experience is taking place, something apparently more "elusive" than elves or wizards. Up until now I've seen no indication that Tarim-Terim is anything more than a political justification for whatever goals a given group may pursue, like the "Tarim" in the famous Conan multi-parter, who turns out to be a Mongol idiot. I doubt if this "manifestation" is anything like "Cerebus has been bad and God's going to get him" -- but it's one of the more intriguing wild cards you've introduced.

Cerebus himself seems to be going through some extreme changes -- one moment, he's in the midst of a drunken binge so self-pitying that to find his self-esteem he'd have to use a shovel; the next, he's the Pope. Sophia makes a nice contrast to his attempts at holy pretentiousness. Henrot-Gutch, however has pretty much expended whatever humor value she had (at least for me.) Sorry, Dave, for all your diverse talents I don't think physical-abuse humor is one of your strong suits.

Anyway, consider yourself privileged to have been compared to Shaw -- aside from Gilbert Shelton, you're about the only other creator in the western hemisphere who **consistently** emulates a milieu like unto literature's in the comics medium. (Shelton, by the way, is comics' Mark Twain, if anyone cares.) Of course, there are disadvantages to literary standing, for, if a Shaw work is termed Shavian, and a Swift work is termed Swiftian, than a Sim work must be termed

Whoops, gotta go, where does the time fly when you're having fun...

Gene Phillips
Houston, TX.

I suppose you think just because you compared me to George Bernard Shaw that I'm going to print your letter, right, Gene? Well that would be such an incredibly shallow move on my part that I refuse. Better luck next time.

By the way, if Gilbert Shelton is Mark Twain, who is Herman Melville?

****

Dear Dave ---

I've finally started reading your book. I wish I had started earlier. Oh well! At least you offer reprints in **Swords of Cerebus.**

So now, I would like to be the lucky fan who gives Gerhard the name that will make an impression everywhere he goes.

GERHARD STAYHARD, THE ARTIST THAT KEEPS IT UP ISSUE AFTER ISSUE!!!

I am now awaiting my prize.

Steve Haynie
Rt 6, Box 307
Easley, S.C., 29640

Don't hold your breath.

****

Dear Dave,

I'm really dissapointed in you. And your letters page. I really though you were more original. RE

"Dear Dave, Issues #66 wuz good."

And you said "So wuz your letter".

The Hell it wuz. That letter wuz not all together too snappy now, wuz it? You think Richard's letter wuz good? No, it wuzn't.

But that's not all that ticked me off, either. Yup, you guessed it. Rob and Derek McCulloch, you greedy pigs. First you desecrate the good name of Mike Bannon, shattering the hopes of all the devoted Mike Bannonettes across the globe, and then when he asks for the simple favor of being given all of Dave's original artwork, you go off about Dave's money and furniture, not once thinking about how Dave feels about all this. If I didn't know better, I would take your favorite neckties, dip them in kerosene staple them to your foreheads, and light them on fire. Not so pretty now, is it?

But do you know what really ticks me off? All of this give Gerhard a last name business. Does he really want a last name? And if so, why let some one else chose it? But NO, you had to go and hold a bloody contest. Those two misers Rob and Derek probably want Gerhard's last name, too. Gerhard McCulloch? YECH. Suppose someone does give you a last name that your force-feed Gerhard, and I end up with a brother I don't

even want. What good is a brother who inks backgrounds? I can see it now "So a bully's been picking on you, little brother? Don't worry. I'll go draw some trees on his forehead." GAAAAH! I can't take it. You guys are sick, all of you
Really sick.
Disgusting.
Really.

Logan Bender,
5610 SW Teig Place,
Seattle, WA., 98116

PS: Issue 68 wuz also good.

Why do I get the feeling that I'm losing control of the letters' page.

****

Dear Dave & Gerhard-

I've been a steady Cerebus fan since issue #6 and have personally berated, cajoled, ridiculed, and browbeaten several others into trying the book. They keep buying it because quality sells itself, but getting some narrow minds to try it is a royal pain!

I haven't wrriten until now on the "if-it-ain't-broke-don't-fix-it" principle, but the letter column in #69 left me hysterical. What's wrong with you people??? Will Eisner is working on Cerebus Jam #1, and still nobody makes the only possible - the only conceivable - suggestion for your contest??? Gerhard, people - as in the Spirit (Oct. 16, 1949) - Gerhard Schnobble!! Let's face facts, if the boy can't fly yet, it's time he learned! (In this company, he's bound to need it!!)

I am eagerly anticipating the Jam, it's really a pity you couldn't get any "name" artists!

Hope Gerhard is happy in his new status. (ie. surnamed!)

O. Kay Bungard
3653 Marion Avenue
Memphis TN., 38111

If cat yronwode was judging the contest, it would be a shoo-in.

Colleen Doran has agreed to do a Jam story for #2. How's that for a name artist? Three more female artists and #2 could be an all-ladies issues. Except for Ger and me. A hem.

****

Dear Mr. Sim,

I enjoyed having dinner with you and learning about Canadian politics, during your stop in Santa Monica. This letter is to let you know how beautiful Cerebus is getting thanks, I'm sure, to Gerhard: and to ask you some questions

1 Will there be a PetuniaCon this year?

2 Is the Cerebus cover art ever for sale?

3 Is it significant or coincidental that, according to Webster's, "Erebus" is the personification of darkness and or a dark place in the underworld on the way to Hades?

Cerebus gets better with every issue (even though all this throwing of people off of buildings is a bit sick) Good luck to Dent! And if the rumor that you're selling Cerebus to Marvel, is true, I hope it makes you very rich

Susan Mc Tigue
2119 1/2 Huntington Lane,
Redondo Beach, CA , 90278

1 Yes, We're holding it in your living room the second weekend in May.

2 See the inside back cover.

3 Probably both. Most significant things are coincidental and vice versa.

I have you narrowed down to two people at that dinner. Which one are you? And what happened to the other one?

****

Dear Dave,

Well, my friends in Pittsburgh, John Devitofranceschi and Spass Stoiantschewsky, whose letters appeared in issues 68 and 69 respectively, finally got me hooked! And about time, too. Cerebus is such a refreshing change from the usual vapid, insipid crap that customarily assaults one's senses in a comic book shop (although I do confess to being a regular reader of Mad Magazine) My only regret is not having swallowed the bait sooner.

As regards the find-a-last-name-for-Gerhard contest, I do have one suggestion albeit a rather esoteric one. I was listening to Mozart's **Cosi Fan Tutte** overture last night, and the thought struck me - Gerhard Da Ponte! Lorenzo Da Ponte was Mozart's Italian Librettist (He- I say- he wrote the words, that is) While Mozart was the driving creative force behind his operas, Da Ponte's contribution was extremely important and must not be overlooked, even though he, like Gerhard, is in the background (bad pun).

Incidentally, Da Ponte is buried in an unmarked grave in New York; Gerhard deserves a better fate

I await issue #70 with eager anticipation and bated breath.

Dave White
A.K.A Fritz
U of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA., 19104

Actually, Gerhard is going to be buried in an unmarked grave in New York as well. Only his will be on the corner of Fifth and Central Park South next to the taxi-stand in front of the Plaza Hotel. It's a step up anyway.

****

Dear Dave 'n' Gerhard,

I have just been rereading my old Friends of Cerebus Newsletters. I have been wondering, WHEN DOES THE NEXT ONE COME!!?? I can't wait I have #11 and #12 and it seems like a longer time since the last one than in between the first two. Please hurry!!

On to more important things

Dent asked that we (your fans) comment about your formats, plots and types of stories So here goes.

The formats which I have liked in the latest issues have been

Issue #63 - Mind Games IV - Gulp Gulp Gulp

Issue #65 - Anything Done For The First Time Unleashes A Demon - Courtyard and Window Speech.

Issue #66 - The Thrill of Agony The Victory of Defeat - Fog, Nightime, and Food Scene

Issue #67 - Day of Greatness Age of Consent - Library Scene

Issue #69 - Ignore It, It's Just Another Reality - EVERYTHING! Esp pg 2.

.. these are my favorites, do more like them. An interesting technique of yours is when you have the room whole and the character in various positions on the one background.

The stories which I like are like the Library Scene in Issue #67 as well as One Afternoon at the Club and Carrol E. King reads in issue #59. These short ditties add a break in an otherwise hilarious book and should be kept

The plots which I like are the ones you are presently pursuing such as Cerebus as Pope and Weisshaupt having a heart attack. Keep with Boobah, and keep him eating right through those blessed sneezes and raving Henrot-Gutchs. Lets see a little more Bear though, OK.

Keep it up and lets see Selling Insurance and Mick and "Keef" as T'campin "jaded royal types".

Allan Lawson
731 Hertford Road,
Winston-Salem, NC., 27104

I like these kinds of letters. I may not print too many of them, but I like them. Anyone else want to send a quick run down on the last six issues or so?

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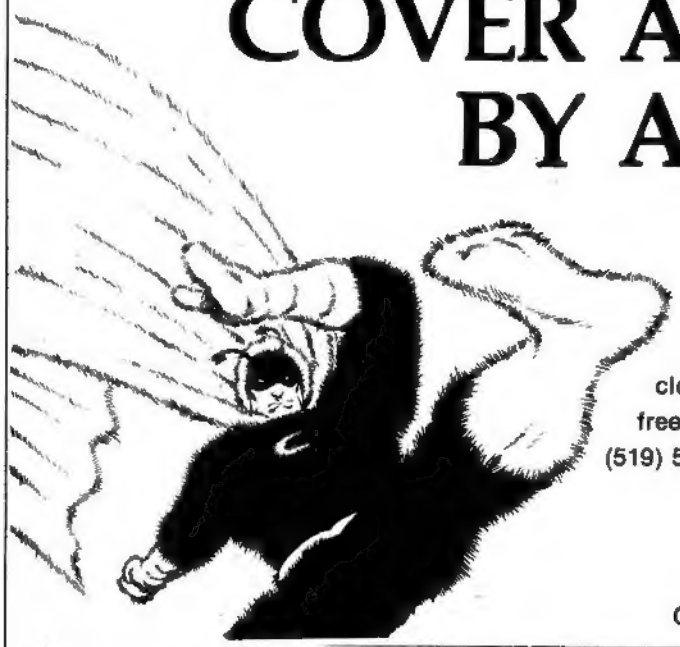

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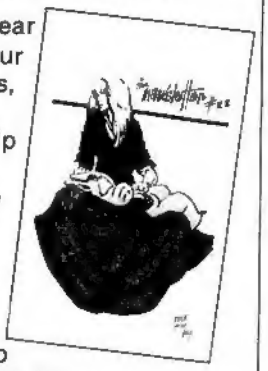

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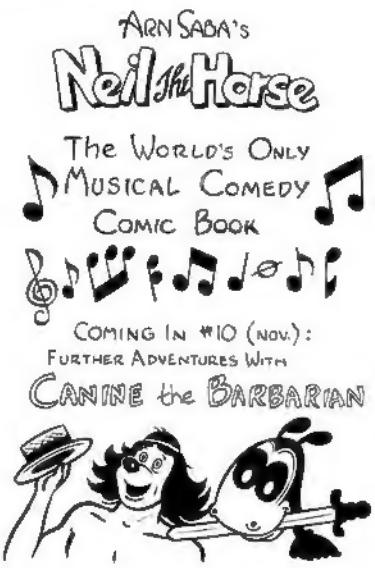

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OH, SURE... AND THE SEPRAN EMPIRE PLOWED THROUGH UPPER FELDA AT ONE TIME...
CEREBUS ISN'T TALKING ABOUT TEN CAMPAIGNS AGO, CEREBUS IS TALKING ABOUT NOW...
CEREBUS IS LOOKING FOR SQUINTEYE
KNOW WHERE HE LIVES?
IT HASN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA...
WHAT DOES Y'WANT 'IM FER?